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A

LECTURE

DELIVERED IN

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE,

PHILADELPHIA,

ON THE

EVENING OF TUESDAY THE 22d OF JANUARY, 1833.

ON THE QUESTION

**“HAS THE PAROTID GLAND EVER BEEN
EXTIRPATED?”**

BY

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Philadelphia:

**PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE,
AND PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION
WITH THEIR RESPECTS.**

1833.

LECTURE, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

Having thus reviewed the facts which I fully demonstrated to you last night, as to the situation, the relations, and the connexions of the Parotid Gland,* I proceed to the *special* object for which we have assembled this evening:—To investigate the question, “HAS THE PAROTID GLAND EVER BEEN EXTIRPATED?”

It is probable that most of the gentlemen, to whom I now address myself, are aware of the reasons which have induced me to enter into an investigation of this interesting inquiry; but, as there may be some of you who have not been informed as to the proceedings of my Class, I beg leave to read to you a letter which a committee of that Body has addressed to me.

Philadelphia, January 1, 1833.

DEAR SIR,

At a meeting of the students of Jefferson Medical College, the undersigned committee was appointed for the purpose of waiting upon our Professor of Surgery, Dr. George M'Clellan, to request of him a statement of his cases of the extirpation of the Parotid Gland for publication; to which he willingly assented, but wished to defer it till you had lectured on the anatomy of that part, when we should be better able to judge of its feasibility.

It has been denied, in a late lecture, by a gentleman holding an eminent situation in the University of Pennsylvania, that the Parotid Gland has ever been extirpated, and although the name of our Professor of Surgery, *who has removed it*, was not mentioned, he was evidently referred to, and that *in the most contemptuous language*.

We, the students of Jefferson Medical College, feeling the honour of our Professor involved, and the credit of our Institution concerned, in the fact being fully established, would feel obliged to you, if you would enter into a discussion of the question, *Has the Parotid Gland ever been extirpated?* when you come to the Surgical Anatomy of the angle of the jaw. By so doing, you will particularly oblige, not only the present committee, but every student of the class.

Respectfully yours,

To Dr. PATTISON,
Professor of Anatomy,
Jefferson Medical College. }

ROBERT B. HALL.
WILLIAM M. JOHNSTON.
JOHN FITZPATRICK.
NATHANIEL D. PARRAN.
THOMAS HANNAY.

By referring to the terms of this letter, you will observe, Gentlemen, that the Learned Professor who has asserted that “*the Parotid Gland never has, nor ever can be extirpated*,” although he did not mention the name of my distinguished friend and colleague, Dr. George M'Clellan, evidently, referred to him. Indeed, on this head, no question can exist; for the Professor of Surgery in JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, was certainly the first man in the United States who performed this operation; and is, even now, the only Member of the Profession in this city who pretends to have done so. You will farther remark, that the gentleman who denied the fact of the gland

* Professor Pattison began his Lecture with a short demonstration of the Anatomy of the Parotid Gland; he having, in his Lecture of the previous evening, given a very minute description of its Anatomical relations.

having ever, in any instance, been removed, in referring to your Professor, made use of "*the most contemptuous language.*"

Devotedly attached as you are to your Professors, and allow me to say they reciprocate and duly appreciate your kind feelings, you have felt aggrieved, that the truth of Dr. McClellan's operation should have been denied; and you have felt as if you yourselves had been insulted, from the contemptuous and disrespectful expressions which have been employed by the Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania, in addressing his class on this subject.

Now, my Young Friends, should you suppose that it is my intention to re-criminate, or to make use of ill-tempered observations in examining the taste, the truth, or the justice of the remarks which have been made on this subject, by the Distinguished Professor of the Sister Institution, you will be disappointed. My sole object will be the elucidation of TRUTH; and I cannot doubt, but that the gentlemen attached to the other School, devoted as they must be to SCIENCE, and occupying, as they do, high offices in her Temple, where the only legitimate worship is TRUTH, must feel, like myself and my Colleagues, zealously interested in its diffusion.

It would be affectation in me to pretend to deny, that I am ignorant of all the observations which were made on the occasion referred to by the Learned Gentleman. Every particular was reported to me, and I am, therefore, in possession of all the facts. But, Gentlemen, in referring to language which was employed in the lecture delivered in the Almshouse, in which the practicability of removing a diseased Parotid Gland was positively denied, I shall not even repeat those expressions which have created in your minds so much disgust and excitement, for fear that I might, in the warmth of extemporaneous lecturing, be induced to utter a single expression which could be construed as indicative of bitterness or unkindness of feeling. My colleagues, Gentlemen, and myself, in promoting the great object which we have most sincerely at heart, the elevation of JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, are desirous to go forward in a spirit of peace and good fellowship with all mankind. We entertain that respect for the characters of the Professors of the University of Pennsylvania, to which the position they occupy in the profession entitle them; and we are most anxious to cultivate sentiments of good will, both with them and with their students. One of the gentlemen attached to that Institution, as many of you are aware, frequently honours me by attending my Lectures. A higher compliment I could not receive, and I appreciate it accordingly. On the present occasion, I am aware that I am favoured with a large assemblage of University students. Actuated by such feelings as have, and always shall guide my conduct, and receiving, as I do, such evidences of respect to my character as a Public Teacher from gentlemen connected with the other School, I should be inexcusable were I to utter a single expression which could give offence to any individual. In referring, therefore, to those expressions which gave so much offence to the pupils of our own Institution, I shall not even say that their utterance was indicative of bad taste: I shall merely remark, that neither myself nor my colleagues would have indulged ourselves in such language, in speaking of the most humble Member of the Profession; much less in canvassing the professional reputation of any of the gentlemen belonging to the Rival School. But although I shall guard against even the mention of that language which was offensive, there are some of the remarks which were made by the Learned Professor, which I shall here repeat: I should wish to remove, as far as I am able, from the minds of my own Students, all irritation and unkindness, towards the gentleman referred to: and as some of his observations, if coolly examined, will be discovered to contain no bitterness of feeling, I shall now repeat them.

It appears that on the occasion of the lecture referred to, from the unusual warmth with which the fact of the extirpation of the Parotid Gland was denied by the Learned Gentleman, the class perceiving, as they thought, the

git of his observations, and conceiving that they could divine the cause of the Professor's remarkable excitement, began to titter, and to wink at each other. This being perceived by the Distinguished Teacher, he made a remark to the following effect: "*I see, gentlemen, what you mean; but you are mistaken. When I take my gun, and go a shooting, I never fire at a DIPPER, when I can get a shot at a CANVASS-BACK;*" and, having said so, he proceeded to make use of the language, which I must beg leave, for the reasons before stated, not even to repeat to you.

Now, really, Gentlemen, this lively, sprightly, sporting, facetious, remark about the *Dipper* and the *Canvass-back* is one which you should not allow to excite your choler. It is perfectly good-tempered, and only indicative of wit and humour. I am very fond of humour myself, and when an important fact can be impressed on your minds by associating it with a sprightly observation, I do not hesitate to indulge in it. You are all aware, that, although I have the reputation of being a very ill-tempered, "turbulent person," that this is far from being the fact. Indeed, my taste for good-humoured railery will not suffer me to allow the sprightly observation about shooting *Canvass-backs* and *Dippers* to pass, without a passing observation. Observe, I have told you that I view the observation about the Ducks as perfectly innocent; but, although I admit this, I cannot allow that it was apposite. Indeed, I think if the Natural History of the *Canvass-back* and *Dipper* be inquired into, it will be admitted that the Learned Gentleman, in making the former the representative of Mr. Bell and other distinguished Surgeons, and the latter the prototype of somebody else, whose name need not be mentioned, and the Members of the Profession who possess no reputation, was very unhappy in his illustration. No person, I admit, has a greater respect for a fine *Canvass-back Duck*, when he is well roasted, and placed on the table, than myself; and nothing delights me more than to exhibit my skill in Comparative Anatomy, by cutting up one of the *species* when placed before me. But it is only when the *Canvass-back Duck* is roasted that he calls forth my admiration. When swimming about in the Susquehanna river, in company with the *Dipper*, his habits are such as to induce me to give a decided preference to his companion, and to lead me to think that the Learned Professor would have been much more happy in his good-humoured sally, had he employed the *Dipper* as the representative of the eminent surgeon.

Those gentlemen who are conversant with the habits of the two species of ducks, must be aware that the *Canvass-back* is a large, lazy, fat bird, which floats indolently on the surface of the water; that the *Dipper* on the contrary, is a most active, energetic little bird, which is incessantly in motion; diving here, diving there, diving every where; not, it is true, in search of knowledge, but in search of a delicious celery which grows at the bottom of the river. Now, it too often happens that, when the sprightly, active little *Dipper* comes to the surface with his prize, that the lazy *Canvass-back*, who may have been asleep the whole time during which the other has been at work, snatches from his bill and devours the rich celery, which it has cost him so much labour to obtain. I fear, Gentlemen, that this is sometimes the case in our own Profession: that the indolent and undeserving, from the power and influence of their connexions, and from other adventitious circumstances, too often seize upon the Good Things of the Profession, which should, with justice, have been awarded to their more active and energetic, but less fortunate Brethren.

But, allowing that the *Canvass-back Duck* was, really, the more praiseworthy bird, and, consequently, the better representative of the distinguished surgeon, I regret that you should have allowed yourselves to have been annoyed by having had your distinguished Professor of Surgery characterized by any comparison, which could be intended to have the effect of representing him as an indifferent surgeon. Recollect, Gentlemen, the declaration of an opponent, that an individual is a person of inferior intellect, and one destitute

of all character, neither subtracts from the powers of a highly gifted mind, nor diminishes the lustre of a brilliant and well-earned reputation.

There is an anecdote which occurs to my mind at this moment, which I shall relate to you. It is a true story. It occurred to myself, and deriving from it, as I did, a valuable lesson, I feel anxious to repeat it, that you may, like myself, be benefited by the moral which it teaches.

One afternoon, last autumn, having walked out to the Fairmount Water Works, after strolling about for some time, I felt fatigued, and came to rest myself by leaning against the parapet wall enclosing the artificial sheet of water which has been formed there. It was truly a most delightful evening. It was near the hour of Sunset, and as the Glorious Orb of day was about to disappear below the western horizon, he shed abroad that soft, rich, mellow light with which it delights him to irradiate the Scene, before he bids adieu to the World: I know not whether it be from jealousy of his fair rival the Moon, that he should, just before he leaves us, dispense, with such profusion, the softest, the mildest, the most bewitching of his rays; such, however, is the fact. You must all have experienced the enchantment of its influence. All nature is impressed with its charms, and acknowledges its power. The landscape is dressed out with it in her loveliest attire; and the mind of man, calmed and tranquillized by it, luxuriates in heavenly contemplation. It was just such an evening, and my mind became soothed under its influence. Not a breath of air agitated the light and graceful willow, the branches of which overhung "the Silvery Lake," on the embankment of which I was reclining; and the pure smooth bosom of the water, tranquil and at rest, was unruffled by a single ripple; its slumber was only broken by the graceful movements of a Magnificent Swan, which floated majestically over its surface. I am a great admirer of Swans, and I watched with interest and admiration the beautiful bird, in all his evolutions, my mind occupied with dreamy recollections of by-gone days, and my imagination filled with far distant scenes.—While enjoying myself in this way, I was disturbed by the hurried steps of two strangers, a lady and a gentleman. They had just alighted from a carriage; and, from the rapidity with which they advanced to the little lake, it was quite evident that the object of their visit was to examine something which they expected to discover there; and their haste betokened their fear, that the approaching shades of twilight might conceal it from their view. They happened to reach the sheet of water, at the very point where I was seated, and having anxiously surveyed it for a few seconds, the lady pointing to the Swan, the gentleman exclaimed, "Pooh! that is no Swan; that's nothing but a Big Goose!" I confess for a moment, I felt irritated, and disgusted at what I very uncharitably conceived to be the most unpardonable stupidity in my companions; but better and more charitable thoughts soon dismissed all irritation from my mind. I felt it was unjust in me to be annoyed by the ignorance of my neighbours. I congratulated myself on the superior advantages I had enjoyed; I had travelled much; I had seen many Swans.

The Noble Bird, as he sailed gracefully along, seemed to read me a lesson which, I trust, in after life, I may profit by recollecting. Seeing his own beautiful form reflected from the face of Nature's Mirror, he was in no degree annoyed by the uncourteous observation of the stranger. He felt that, to call him a Goose, did not alter his identity. He felt that he was, really and truly, a Swan. So, Gentlemen, has it been with Dr. George M'Clellan's colleagues. They know, and they justly appreciate the high order of his intellect. They feel that every person who becomes acquainted with him, must admit that he is a most eminent and highly gifted Surgeon; and should any one, from his not having had the advantage of his acquaintance, be ignorant of this fact, they do not feel angry with them on account of their ignorance; they only congratulate themselves on their own superior good fortune. You, Gentlemen, have had opportunities for estimating the talents and

the superior acquirements of your Professor of Surgery; and should you, at any time hereafter, hear them questioned by others, who may not have enjoyed your advantages, recall to mind the lesson taught, and the moral inculcated by "THE STORY OF THE SWAN."

Before I conclude these introductory observations, I would guard you against over-estimating the talents and the reputation of those Members of your profession, who, residing at a distance, are only known to you by their fame, whilst you do not justly appreciate the characters of the distinguished men with whom you are associated; with whom you are in daily communication; and the powers of whose minds are open to your own observation.

I am, myself, Gentlemen, as you are aware, a Foreigner, and I can hardly be suspected of having a wish to lower your admiration of my countrymen, or of that of the other distinguished men of Science in Europe. But, although I am a Scotchman, and, although I do glory in my country, I have no paltry, pitiful, national prejudices. I desire that all men should receive that meed of admiration to which their talents and acquirements entitle them; and I am, therefore, induced to make a remark, and to offer you a caution, which, I am persuaded, you will, in your future intercourse with mankind, find to be founded on truth.

My friend, Thomas Campbell, the distinguished author of the "PLEASURES OF HOPE," in speaking of the effect of distance on the objects of creation, beautifully expresses himself:—

" 'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view,
And robes the landscape in her roseate hue."

Distance has, in fact, the power of enchantment, not only on the scenery of the landscape, but, likewise, on the characters of men.

It is probable that some of the gentlemen, to whom I now address myself, reside in the neighbourhood of an extensive sheet of water. For example, the Chesapeake Bay; if it be so, I will recall to your minds a fact, which must frequently have excited your attention and observation. In crossing such an expanse of water, you have, no doubt, been struck, as the opposite shore became visible, how the objects, which were scattered over its face, as seen through the vapoury atmosphere, which separated you from it, *loomed* on your vision. The little hills rose up like lofty mountains, their summits "o'er-topping Olympus," and the trees seemed to stretch out their branches even into the heavens. When you recalled to mind, for the purpose of comparison, the highest hills, and the loftiest oaks, of your own shore, the former sunk, into mole-hills; and the latter dwindled into stunted shrubs. But in proportion as the distance diminished, so in proportion were the errors of an erroneous judgment corrected. The hills and the trees you approached were reduced to their just proportions; and the hills, and the trees you had left, were discovered to be, in every respect, equal to them.

Believe me, Gentlemen, that the reputations of men, when examined from a distance, are very apt, like the inanimate objects of the landscape, to *loom* in the imagination of the examiner. It has been my good fortune to have enjoyed the personal acquaintance of most of the distinguished Surgeons of Europe, and, likewise, to have associated with many other characters, who, with justice, are admitted to be the most Illustrious of her Sons. Before I knew them, I confess, the vastness of their intellects *loomed* on my imagination. They appeared, at a distance, more than MORTALS; but, when known and examined in person, I found them merely MEN; differing in no very remarkable feature, of intellect or character, from the distinguished individuals with whom I had been associated, in my native city. There is only one man I have ever known, who, from the towering height of his mind, and from the rich and exhaustless stores of his information, has realized all my imaginings of a GREAT MAN;—a man differing from, and far exalted, by

capacity and acquirement, above all others. This man is HENRY BROUGHAM, the present LORD CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND. He, indeed, seems to be almost more than Mortal.

The object I have had in view, in making these remarks, is to press on your attention, the fact, that, in looking for eminence in your own profession, or in the other walks of life, it is unnecessary for you to go from home. Mr. Bell was, unquestionably, a distinguished Surgeon; so is Astley Cooper, Dupuytren, and many others: but, Gentlemen, you are not required, when you wish to illustrate professional eminence, to leave your own Country. I unhesitatingly assert, that, in every thing which should establish Chirurgical distinction, Dr. Physick and Dr. George M'Clellan are not inferior to any of their most gifted brethren in Europe.

But, I can indulge myself no longer in these introductory observations; it is time that I should proceed to an examination of the Proposition, delivered and enforced by the Learned Professor, in the lecture which has called for this meeting. It may be stated shortly, as follows:—

“Although Mr. Bell asserts that he did extirpate a diseased Parotid Gland, the fact is, he never did so. *Ergo*. The Parotid Gland never has, nor ever can be extirpated.”

Now I really must say, that, admitting the premises, I do not perceive how the *sequitur* is demonstrated. It is now more than twenty-five years since Mr. Bell's work was published; and it is, I trust, unnecessary for me to remind you, that many things, both in Mechanics and in Surgery, which were not even then dreamt of, have since been accomplished.

There was an observation made to me by a very intelligent student of this class, whom I had the pleasure of meeting, last Saturday evening, at a party at my friend and colleague, Dr. Revere's, with which I was much gratified. This Gentleman, was not satisfied with surgery, as it stood at the present day, and hopeless of improving it. He was a Virginian, and warm and enthusiastic like the citizens of his state; he could not admit that a barrier was opposed to the farther progress, and improvement of our profession; and, in illustration of his opinion, that there were no limits to the advance of the Arts and Sciences, he instanced the almost miraculous improvements which have been adopted of late years in the application of Steam. They are, indeed, Gentlemen, truly wonderful. Had any person, at the time Mr. Bell's book was published, announced that, before the lapse of twenty-five years, Steam would be so applied that, by the employment of its power, a large vessel could, in opposition to the wind and current be so propelled as to move up to Bristol, the announcement would have been received and hooted, with ridicule, as the vain imaginings of a visionary. But, Gentlemen, this has not only been accomplished; this Mighty Agent is now so subjected to the power of man, that we not only employ its power to navigate a vessel to Bristol, but we compel it to propel a mighty ark, freighted with a city's population, from New York to Albany, a distance of one hundred and eighty miles, in the inconceivably short space of twelve hours. Not only so; impressed as this Power is into our service, and subjected, as it is, to our control, by the god-like energy of the Human Mind; we, depending solely to the power of its influence, trust ourselves, fearlessly, in despite of the hurricane and the storm, to navigate the boundless sea; and we move cheerily and triumphantly along, without a single sail, over the mountain waves of the vast Atlantic Ocean.

But, Gentlemen, I am not constrained to resort to the mechanical arts to establish the justness of the remark of my Virginian friend; “that the sciences now are, and must always be advancing,” our own art furnishes me with the most triumphant evidence of its truth. When the work of Mr. Bell, which has been referred to by the Learned Professor, was published, the Carotid Artery had never been tied. Since that time, the progress of Chirurgical improvement has not only established the fact, of the practicability

of performing this operation, but the Internal Iliac Artery, the Arteria Innominate, ay! even the Abdominal Aorta has been secured by ligature! It is not only in this department of surgery that improvements have taken place; in all her branches there has been a regular, a progressive and a triumphant progress. Were I to call your attention even to a tithe of late improvements which have been made in our own profession, I might occupy the whole evening.

The study of Surgical Anatomy, which has, of late years, received so much attention, seems to have been the cause of the glorious, the successful accomplishment of operations, which were not even dreamt of, when Mr. Bell's work, on Tumours, was given to the world. Anxious, as your Professor of Anatomy is, to teach you the Science he professes, and zealous as he is in impressing on your minds, the great and important facts of Surgical Anatomy, he would, indeed, feel distressed, could he suspect that there was a single drone amongst his pupils, who was content with even the present state of Chirurgical Science, and to despair of its future advancement. No! gentlemen, he knows there is no such individual to be found in his class. He has the satisfying assurance, that he has, at all events, succeeded in warming, and exciting your youthful spirits, with high aspirings for the improvement of your profession. You will never, gentlemen, let me assure you, be told, by a PROFESSOR of JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, that you ought not to attempt, yourselves, to perform the operation for lithotomy; "*but that you must send your stone patients to Philadelphia, to be operated on.*" "No! no! we expect so to teach you your profession, that when you leave us, you will not only be qualified to operate for lithotomy; but, that, should you be called on, you will, unhesitatingly, and fearlessly extirpate the Parotid Gland, and thus furnish a demonstration, should such be required, of the practicability and safety of an operation, the possibility of which has been most positively, and pertinaciously denied, by the distinguished Professor of Surgery, in the University of Pennsylvania.

Having announced to you the Proposition of the Learned Professor, that, in his opinion, although Mr. Bell, has asserted that he had performed the operation of removing a diseased Parotid Gland, he never really did perform that operation, and, consequently, that the operation never has, nor ever can be performed; I shall not rest satisfied with establishing the fact, that, of late years, this operation has been repeatedly and successfully executed, both in Europe and in the United States of America: but I shall prove—

First, That prior to, and contemporaneously with, the publication of Mr. Bell's work, there are to be found, reported by the highest Surgical authorities, numerous cases, where the Parotid Gland, in a state of disease, is said to have been removed.

Secondly, I shall prove, that, of late years, a very great number of cases have been published, which contain accounts of the performance of this operation; and which, from the high characters of the surgeons who report the cases, neither can, nor do admit, of the fact being questioned.

Thirdly, I shall establish the fact, that my distinguished friend and colleague, Dr. George McClellan, was the first surgeon in the United States who removed a diseased Parotid Gland; and that he has, most unquestionably, performed with safety to his patients the operation, in three several instances.

First, I shall not tire you by going farther back in the History of Surgery than the year 1733. If you refer to the *Commercium Litterarium*, (page 61,) you will find, in that year, a case reported by HEISTER; whose authority, every surgeon will admit, is of the first order; in which a diseased Parotid Gland is stated to have been extirpated. The operation was not performed by Heister himself, but by an eminent surgeon, a friend of his: he, however, vouches for the fact.

The next case I shall notice, is given by ACREL. You may examine it, by turning to the *Comment. Lepsiæ Supplement.* (page 659.)

SIEBOLD announced a case in the year 1781, under the title *Glandul. Parot. Schirros Felic. extirpat. Histor.*—And SOURCRAMPE gives a case in the 84th volume of the *Journal de Medicine*.

If necessary, I might farther refer you to cases by SCULTETUS, VERDUIN, GOOCH, BEHR, and PALFIN; but this, I consider as altogether superfluous. Without doing so, I am persuaded no person will pretend to deny, that when Mr. Bell's work "*on Tumours*" was published, he was not the only member of the profession who believed that the operation of extirpation of the Parotid Gland could be executed, and who had reported cases of its actually having been performed. I acknowledge that some of the cases reported by the authorities which have been referred to, will admit, from the descriptions of the operations which have been given, of doubt; and I will farther concede to the Learned Professor, that, in my opinion, in the *single* case, Mr. Bell's, on which he rests his whole argument, the operation was not performed. I am led to this opinion, not from the fact of the operation being impossible, which is the inference of the Learned Professor, but because Mr. Bell contradicts, in his work on Anatomy, the very assertion which he has made in his "*Essays on Tumours*," where the statement of his having performed the operation is contained.

The sole object I have had in view, in the establishment of my first Proposition: viz. that, "when Mr. Bell's work was published, he was not a solitary authority as to the operation being practicable," is, to establish the fact that if the Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania, had considered the improvements which have been made in surgery within the last five-and-twenty years, as undeserving of his attention and study,—if he was entirely wedded to the "*good olden time*," even amongst its records, he might, without much trouble, have discovered that there were other cases, besides Mr. Bell's, to be controverted before he could establish his proposition, that the Parotid Gland never had, nor ever could be extirpated.

Secondly, I come now to my second Proposition: and really, if after I shall have shortly stated the facts, which the progress of surgery has, within the last few years, furnished, to establish the practicability and safety of extirpating a diseased Parotid Gland, the possibility of performing this operation should be doubted, even by a Junior Student, I shall only say that his case is hopeless; and that, as he is determined to reject all evidence, I could not expect, even should he deny that the carotid artery had ever been tied in the living subject, to convince him that the operation was performed almost daily. It is said, that on the promulgation of the discovery of the circulation of the blood by the illustrious Harvey, not one of his contemporaries above the age of forty years would admit its truth. The world is, fortunately, not now so wedded to prejudice; and I shall be much mistaken, if any of the gentlemen to whom I now address myself,—and I perceive there are a good many of them, who have already passed the age when obstinacy is said to assume a tyrannical sway over the judgment and the other faculties of the mind,—who will leave this Theatre, without being satisfied, even in opposition to the high and distinguished authority who has promulgated a contrary opinion, that the Parotid Gland has been, and may be extirpated, from the living subject.

The late authorities I possess, to establish the feasibility of the operation, are so numerous, that I fear I shall fatigue you by noticing even the most eminent.

In the *Medico-Chirurgical Trans.* vol. vii., a case is communicated by the late Mr. Abernethy, in which Mr. Goodland, of Bury, a distinguished member of the profession, removed a tumour from the neck and face, which involved the *entire substance of the Parotid Gland*. The base of the tumour measured twenty-eight inches, and it is emphatically stated, that "*the Parotid Gland was entirely removed*." This operation was performed the 7th of September, 1815.

In the *Trans. of King's and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland*,

vol. ii. 1818, Mr. Carmichael, of Dublin, a man who deservedly enjoys the highest reputation, and whose veracity cannot be questioned, reports a case where he extirpated a very large Parotid Gland. The following were the measurements of the external surface of the tumour. "Vertically, from the external ear, which it pushed forcibly upwards, out of its natural situation, to the neck on which it descended, it measured five inches. Horizontally, immediately before the ear at its superior part, it measured three inches and a half; and, at its inferior part, it measured fully five inches." These measurements are particularly interesting, as fixing the situation of this tumour. We are told, in the description of this operation, that it was fixed to the "*temporal bone, between the styloid and mastoid processes.*" It must, then, have been, at all events, in the precise situation of the Parotid Gland. That it was the identical gland, and nothing else, we must admit, unless we reject Mr. Carmichael's testimony; for his comment on the operation is,—"*This operation proves the practicability of extirpating the Parotid Gland.*" The case was completely successful."

But I must hurry on. In the "*Archives General's*," for the year 1824, Berard has published a case, in which Beclard, the late distinguished Professor of Anatomy in the *Ecole de Medicine* at Paris, a man whom we would really suppose knew enough of anatomy to enable him to decide whether the Parotid Gland had or had not been removed, has asserted *positively, after the operation, that it was entirely extirpated.* If a doubt could have remained, as the patient died fifteen days after the performance of the operation, from erysipelas,—a disease, which, you are aware, frequently destroys life after the simplest surgical operations performed in the neighbourhood of the head,—an opportunity was thus afforded for examining the parts. This dissection was conducted by the Professor of Anatomy in what is acknowledged to be the first Anatomical School in the World, assisted by other eminent Anatomists; and both he and they have certified, that *the entire gland was removed by the operation.*

Monsieur Le Docteur Pillet, in a thesis published by him in Paris in the year 1828, relates two cases, in which Gensoul, a celebrated surgeon at Lyons, had extirpated the Parotid Gland. The first operation was performed the 20th of September, 1824; and the second, the 17th of September, 1826.

In 1826, Lisfranc performed this operation at Paris. (*See Revue Medicale*, 1826.) Death occurred on the sixteenth day. *The post mortem examination of the body was conducted in the presence of the FRENCH ACADEMY OF SURGERY; and it was proved, to their entire satisfaction, that every atom of the gland had been removed.* Now, surely, the learned Professor of Surgery in the University of Pennsylvania will allow, that there are some of the members of the FRENCH ACADEMY OF SURGERY, who are entitled to be characterized and distinguished by him, by the *honourable* appellation of CANVASS-BACK DUCKS.

Dr. Preiger, of Kreuznach, has reported three cases, in which he has removed diseased Parotid Glands. His first case you will find recorded in *Graefe and Walther's Journal*, 1820: his second, in *Rust's Magazine*, 1825; and his third may be examined by a reference to *Graefe and Walther's Journal*, 1826.—Dr. Klein, of Stuttgart, gives a case in *Graefe and Walther's Journal*, 1820.

Mr. Kirby, of Dublin, reports a case in his *Observations on Hemorrhoidal Excrescences*. So perfectly established, in Europe, is the fact of the practicability and safety of the operation, that surgeons do not now think it necessary to publish their cases. My friend Sir Astley Cooper, in a letter to Mr. Kirby, states incidentally, as a matter of no consequence,—"*I have removed the Parotid Gland twice within the last twelvemonth.*"

My distinguished friend Dr. Bush, of New York, a gentleman, who, by the high order of his intellect, and by the extent and superiority of his acquirements, had, as a very young man, placed himself amongst the first surgeons of his own country, before he left it, and who is now admitted to be at

the very head of the profession in this country, has performed the operation in question with complete success, in four cases. His first operation was performed in the month of December, 1827; and his last, during the last month. His first case is given with such clearness and modesty, that I shall quote it.

"Dec. 10th, 1827.—Henry Hessender, aged twenty-four, robust, and in good health, has a tumour, of the left Parotid Gland, as large as the fist, hard, irregular on the surface, nearly immovable, and attended with lancinating pains. He cannot open his mouth for more than three quarters of an inch, nor masticate with any degree of facility or comfort. The tumour has forced the side of the pharynx before it, and projects considerably into the fauces. The disease succeeded to a severe cold, and commenced about two years since.

"14th.—At his own and friends' desire, I operated this day as follows:—1st, I made a crucial incision over the tumour, and carried the perpendicular section for an inch and three quarters below the gland, and in a line corresponding to the anterior edge of the sterno-mastoid muscle. 2d. I reflected the flaps. 3d. I had the lower angle of the wound divaricated by narrow curved retractors, and the tumour carried upwards and outwards by a double hook; while I dissected inwards, dividing in succession the nervus ascendens colli, parotidean vein, and stylo-maxillary ligament. 4th. Being now better able to retract the sterno-maxillary muscle, I soon brought into view the posterior belly of the digastric, along which I cautiously dissected until I exposed its tendon and the inferior part of the stylo-hyoideus. 5th. I had the posterior belly of the digastric carried downwards and outwards by a blunt hook, while I dissected on, and secured with two ligatures, and divided between them the external carotid artery. 6th. I detached the tumour from the sterno-mastoid muscle, mastoid process, and concha of the ear, (in which dissection the anterior posterior auris was divided and immediately secured.) 7th. I tied with two ligatures and divided between them, the trunk of the temporal artery, and carried the dissection along the anterior edge of the gland, dividing the branches of the external respiratory nerve,* and the Stenonian duct, until I had elevated it from the anterior surface of the masseter muscle, and posterior edge of the ramus of the inferior maxillary bone. 8th. I fixed two double hooks, one on the anterior, and the other on the inferior part of the gland; then, with his head inclined to the affected side, I had the diseased mass carried upwards and backwards, while I lacerated the cellular connexions with the handle of the knife, until I exposed the internal maxillary artery, which I soon tied and divided. 9th. The gland was separated from its bed by the use of a silver-bladed knife.

"The edges of the wound were united by adhesive plaster, and the central part dressed from the bottom.

"The operation lasted one hour and three quarters, and the patient, though much exhausted, did not lose more than six ounces of blood."

Lastly, Dr. Mott, of New York, whose reputation every member of the profession in the country respects, reported one case in 1830.

I should consider it an insult to your understanding, were I to offer a single comment on these cases. They have been published, neither for the purpose of adding to, nor detracting from the reputation, of any particular School of Medicine. The sole object of their publication, has been the promulgation of truth, and the improvement of Chirurgical Science. They establish, incontrovertibly and unquestionably, the fact, not only of the practicability, but of the safety of performing the operation of extirpating a diseased Parotid Gland.

Thirdly. I proceed, in the third place, to prove that my friend and colleague, Dr. George McClellan, has performed the operation of removing the Parotid Gland with success in three several instances.

* * Paralysis immediately succeeded the division of these branches."

The first case in which Dr. George M'Clellan operated, was one which would have deterred a man of less energy of mind and professional eminence from attempting the operation. The subject of it, Dr. Graham, a gentleman at present highly respected in his profession, in the city of New York, was, at the time the operation was executed, a medical student in Philadelphia. The tumour was large, and its anterior face was marked by a cicatrix, left from a former operation, in which, from the difficulties which met the surgeon in his attempt to extract it, he was induced to desist. My friend's boldness,—a boldness resting on his knowledge of Surgical Anatomy, was not to be daunted by the failure of a previous operation. He was confident that the operation might have been, and still could be, successfully executed. He assured the patient that his confidence as to its practicability, was so strong that he was, himself, prepared to undertake it. He did perform the operation, and thus established the justness of his opinion, and saved the life of a valuable Member of the Profession. There is a comfort and a consolation in the recollection and assurance of this fact, Gentlemen, which neutralizes the poison of all calumny and misrepresentation. Dr. Graham is still alive, and in good health, and having, since the operation, visited Europe and been examined by Sir Astley Cooper, and the late Mr. Abernethy, those distinguished surgeons have unhesitatingly declared, that no doubt can exist as to the *whole gland having been removed*. But their declaration, to this effect, was unnecessary. I shall only ask any unprejudiced person to peruse my Friend's description of the appearance presented by the wound, immediately after the operation, and then ask their own mind, if a single doubt, as to the whole gland having been extirpated in this case, can remain.

"The styloid process, entirely bared, and even divested of a large proportion of its muscular fibres, which had been torn away with the tumour, projected into the back and lower part of the wound. The internal carotid and jugular vein, together with the hypoglossal nerve, which was barely covered with some loose cellular tissue, formed the posterior parietes of the deep and expanded part of the cavity that was situated within the ramus of the jaw before, and the mastoid process behind. With a finger, introduced behind the ramus and angle of the jaw, could be felt the two pterygoidei muscles, which were completely exposed and projected into the cavity in that situation. In fact, the tumour appeared to have projected into, and to have filled up every space into which the parotid itself could possibly have insinuated; and no vestige of any portion of that gland, either sound or morbid, could be discovered in any part of the exposed cavity."

This operation was performed in the year 1826, and is reported in the *Medical Review* for that year.

Dr. M'Clellan's second case, was that of a Mr. Sorber, the brother of a physician, and the operation was undertaken, at the request of this physician, and the report of the case and operation is published, not by Dr. M'Clellan, but by Dr. Sorber. This gentleman thus describes the wound:—

"On examining the cavity of the wound, the cartilaginous tube of the ear was found to be exposed down to the auditory process of the temporal bone, and the ligament, which ties it to that process, was partially divided, so as to give egress to a quantity of blood through the external ear. The articulation of the jaw was partly exposed, so that the interarticular cartilage could be seen behind and above the condyle, on every motion of the joint. The depth of the wound was very great, full two inches and a half from the angle of the jaw, towards the posterior fauces, and top of the pharynx. Not a single granule or particle of the gland was left behind. Of this fact we formed a satisfactory opinion, in as much as the whole of the exposed surface was left clear and dry, after the cessation of the hemorrhage, and could be thoroughly examined by the eye, as well as by the touch."

But the fact of the entire gland's being removed, in the case of Mr. Sor-

ber, need not rest on this clear statement. The patient died of an abdominal disease, eighteen months afterwards, and the certificates, furnished by three most respectable surgeons, who examined the body, prove, "*that not a vestige of the right Parotid Gland appeared in any of the recesses, behind the ramus of the jaw, or among the small muscles, around the styloid process, or in any part with which the gland is connected.*"—"The parts were thoroughly and minutely dissected, and not a single particle of glandular structure could be detected, &c. &c."—*Western Journal*, p. 472.

Where is the skeptic to be found who will foster a doubt of the fact, of the extirpation of a Parotid Gland, after such evidence? If such exist, let him listen to the statement of Dr. McClellan's last case.

The subject of Dr. McClellan's last operation, was a mulatto man. The tumour was large and occupied the situation of the Parotid Gland. The whole of the space between the ascending ramus of the jaw, and the Tracheal Margin of the Sterno Cleido Mastoideus muscle, was filled up by it, and the external ear was completely displaced and forced upwards and backwards. It was so wedged and fixed in its situation, that it did not admit of being moved. I need not describe the different steps of the operation. If the Profession will allow me the credit of knowing so much of Anatomy, as to be able to distinguish the Parotid Gland, they must give up their doubts, should they exist, as to the practicability of extirpating a diseased Parotid Gland. When the operation was finished, I examined, most critically, the wound. I saw the root of the Mastoid process completely cleared out. The *Portio Dura* was exposed and divided, immediately at its exit, from the Stylo-Mastoid foramen. The posterior division of the articular fossa was empty, the portion of the Parotid, which lodges there, was entirely removed. The cartilaginous tube of the ear was cleanly dissected down to its attachment, to the auditory process; the *Stylo-Glossus* and *Stylo-Pharyngeus* muscles were exposed from their origins to their insertions. The External Carotid, tied at the point where it had passed into the Gland, lay before them, and the Internal Carotid, in connexion with the Internal Jugular Vein, placed behind the Styloid Muscles, and covered by these, and a little loose Cellular Tissue, was seen pulsating at the bottom of the large wound.

The arteries had all been tied, and there was no blood to interrupt my vision. I am remarkably sharp-sighted, and although I examined the wound with much attention, although I looked into every crevice where a granule of the Gland might have found a hiding-place, I unhesitatingly declare I could not discover that an atom of it had been left. With my own Class, and with the Members of the Profession, both in this country and in Europe, I know that my declaration, to this effect, will be received as conclusive and demonstrative evidence, that, in this case, the entire substance of the Parotid Gland was extirpated. If there were not another case on record, this single case would of itself be sufficient to convince every man who had no interest in undermining the Professional reputation of Dr. George McClellan, and of concealing the fame of the Institution with which he is connected, that the Parotid Gland could be removed, and that the feasibility and safety of the operation had been demonstrated by the Professor of Surgery in JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

This last operation has been performed since the commencement of the present session.*

Having now, I trust, clearly and incontrovertibly established the three propositions I laid down;—FIRST, That when Mr. Bell's "*WORK ON TUMOURS*," was published, the practicability of extirpating a diseased Parotid, did not rest *solely* on Mr. Bell's authority;—SECONDLY, That, of late years, the operation has been frequently and successfully executed, and that no man who

* Since this Lecture was delivered the patient, Charles Jenkins, on whom this operation was performed, was brought by Dr. McClellan, to his Class, to be examined by his students.

keeps pace with the progress of his Profession, questions its feasibility and safety; and, **THIRDLY**, That Dr. George McClellan has unquestionably extirpated, successfully, the Gland in three cases;—I come, in conclusion, to examine, very briefly, the objections which have been urged against the possibility of performing such an operation.

In demonstrating to you, as I did very fully at my last lecture, the Anatomical Relations and Connexions of the Parotid Gland, you will do me the justice to admit, that I did not extenuate any of the difficulties, attendant on the operation. In teaching you Anatomy, Gentlemen, I never allow paltry or contemptible prejudices to lead me from the Truth. I neither exaggerate, nor do I conceal the difficulties, which the Surgical Anatomy of the different Regions of the Body offer to the execution of any particular operation. I have not attempted to teach you, that the extirpation of the Parotid Gland is a simple operation, and one which may be executed by a Tyro in Surgery. On the contrary, I have been at pains to prove to you, that it is a very difficult operation, and that its accomplishment can only be realized by a highly gifted Surgeon; by one whose mind is deeply imbued with a knowledge of Anatomy, whose heart is calm, and whose mind is cool, collected and determined. But, although I admit all this, still the argument which has been so strenuously urged by those who deny the possibility of performing the operation, viz. that the External Carotid Artery actually passes through it is not, in my opinion, an objection to the operation. Do we not tie, without a moment's hesitation, the Common Carotid? You answer me, yes! what then, in the name of common sense, is to deter us from tying *its branch, the External Carotid*? Dismiss, therefore, Gentlemen, I pray you, from your minds, this idle fear. Do not, I beseech you, allow such a *bug-bear* as this, which has been raised by timidity and prejudice, to daunt you, and deter you from saving the life of a fellow-creature. Study, Gentlemen, Surgical Anatomy, which some Teachers of Anatomy have presumed to talk about with contempt, and, believe me, you will be able to exorcise much Mightier Spirits. You require to divide the Portio Dura, and paralyze the Facial Muscles; granted.—Does Dr. Graham, and the other numerous individuals, whose lives have been saved by this operation, feel this as a grievous deprivation? Do they not move about amongst us, fulfilling all the social relations of life, and participating in all its enjoyments, instead of lying in the cold, cold grave—

“ Without the power to scare away
The cold consumers of their clay?”

and shall this be urged by a man of humanity, as an objection to the operation? We are told, that when the Gland has become enlarged, it shall so send out its roots, that their branchings will render hopeless any attempt to follow them out and extirpate them. But this, Gentlemen, has been proved to be a mere Fiction of the imagination. The imaginings of the mind are, surely, not to be permitted to controvert the evidence of a host of witnesses, on whom the operation has been performed, and who are now alive to attest most gratefully its practicability and safety.

Those gentlemen who deny the possibility of extirpating a diseased Parotid Gland, assert, that in the cases where it is said that the operation was actually performed, the surgeons reporting them, have been deceived. They are *so liberal* as to allow they were honest men, and that they had no wish to deceive the Profession; but, that they themselves had been deceived, and that the Glands removed were not diseased Parotids, but diseased Conglobate Glands, situated in its neighbourhood. But even if they could establish their position, and prove that the most distinguished surgeons of Great Britain,—that the Professor of Anatomy in the University of Paris,—ay! and that the whole of the Members of the French Academy of Surgery were so ignorant as to be unable to distinguish a Conglobate from a Conglomerate Gland, really,

I cannot see how they strengthen their argument as to the impracticability of removing the Parotid. Let them substantiate their most *curious* assertion; let them establish the fact, that one of the little Conglobate Glands in the vicinity of the Parotid, by a species of cleverness which I confess it is difficult even to imagine, has usurped the place of its large neighbour; that it has most cunningly turned him out of his well protected bed; and that it has persuaded all of his relations to come and occupy the same situation in his interior which they had previously held in that of the discarded tenant; in a word, that this great Salivary Gland is made to disappear, and that an enlarged Conglobate Gland comes to take its seat, and to embrace all its relations and connexions;—I repeat, I do not see how they strengthen their argument. My mind, I confess, is so obtuse as to be unable to comprehend how it would be more impracticable to extirpate a diseased Parotid than to remove a diseased Conglobate Gland, *which was placed precisely in the same situation, and occupied precisely the same relations and connexions.*

But the Learned and distinguished Professor to whom I have had the honour to refer so frequently this evening, has assured you that a healthy Parotid Gland cannot be removed entire, even from the Dead Body. You have all of you, yourselves, seen me, at the commencement of this Lecture, in a few seconds, remove the Parotid Gland from the subject which now lies before me. Examine this, the wound which I exhibit to you, and you will perceive precisely such a wound as was presented after Dr. M'Clellan's operation; with this difference, that, in his case, it was larger, from the gland's having been enlarged. Let even the most sharp-sighted amongst you examine it, and he will discover that the entire gland has been extirpated. I should be inclined to believe that the organization of the bodies which are brought to this School, is the same as that of those which are received at the other Institution: and this being admitted, I am at a loss to understand how the Pupils of my dissecting-room do themselves, without difficulty, perform an operation which the Professor of Surgery in the Rival Institution has asserted cannot be executed.

I have now, Gentlemen, brought my observations to a conclusion, and, I trust, I have not indulged in a single remark, nor employed one expression which can justly have given offence to any one, or have been viewed as indicative of ill temper, and a disposition to quarrel with any of the Members of my Profession. I repeat to you, emphatically, Gentlemen, that my Colleagues and myself are determined to pursue, steadily, the great object we have at heart; namely,—to place **JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE** at the very head of the Institutions of this or any other country, as a School for Medical Instruction; and to allow neither calumny nor misrepresentation to disturb the equanimity of our tempers, nor seduce us into squabbles. We, Gentlemen, feel the inherent strength of our Institution; and we know that nothing can arrest its career, nor even impede its triumphant progress. This Session we have doubled the numbers of our students; and, what is of much more consequence, we have, by our exertions, secured to ourselves the very first reputation amongst the Medical Institutions of our country. No man will henceforth presume to speak sneeringly of the **DIPLOMA OF JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE**: and he who is fortunate enough to possess it, may congratulate himself in having obtained the very highest evidence of qualification, and of having received the very best education which can be procured in the United States. Our motto, Gentlemen, is "**PEACE and SCIENCE.**" Resting on the gentle, forbearing Spirit of **PEACE**, and bearing **SCIENCE** as our **SHIELD**, we bid defiance to all slander. Thus supported, and thus defended, we know we must conquer.

I am well aware, Gentlemen, that misrepresentations have not been confined to the character of your Professor of Surgery—your Professor of Anatomy has had his full share of them. There is one story, amongst many others, which has been most industriously circulated in relation to him, which you

have probably all heard; but, as it is possible that some who are now present may not yet have been told it, and as I have been anxious this evening not only to instruct, but also to amuse you, I shall here repeat it.

It is positively said, by the ingenious inventors of the tale, that *the Professor of Anatomy, in Jefferson Medical College, knows nothing of Anatomy*; and, as this assertion could scarcely hope to be credited without evidence, a very pretty little story is told, in confirmation of the fact. It is as follows:—That that gentleman having been called on to perform the operation of tying the Carotid Artery, his ignorance of the Science he has taught for twenty years was so astounding, that having made his incision in the neck, he laid bare, *not the Carotid Artery, but the Omo-Hyoideus Muscle*; and after much labour, having succeeded in separating it from its connexions,—*all the time mistaking this little muscle for the great Artery of the neck*,—he was actually about to secure it with a ligature. Fortunately, just as he was about to tie the knot, one of his students said, “Why, Doctor, that is not the Carotid Artery; that is the Omo-Hyoid Muscle.” Having been thus kindly instructed by his pupil, he put the muscle aside; and having at last, with the assistance of his student, found the Artery, he tied it.

It requires, Gentlemen, no great effort of temper, nor exercise of the Spirit of Charity, on the part of the PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY IN JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE to hear such a story as this circulated, without having his temper irritated by it. Feeling assured that such a tale will not be credited by a single man, woman, or child in the United States, its malevolence may make him smile, but most certainly it will not make him angry.

Many of you, Gentlemen, are now about to enter into the World; let me, I pray you, impress on your minds a lesson I have derived from my own experience; which is, that if you have only, by diligence and attention to your studies, qualified yourselves for the performance of the duties of your Profession, neither slander nor misrepresentation can prevent your success. When, therefore, you hear that you have been traduced, when your skill and ability are belied or called in question, do not, my Young Friends, allow your tempers to be irritated; do not repel calumny by ill-tempered recrimination; recall to mind the AXIOM delivered by the Roman,—which is not more remarkable for its truth, than for the consolation it must afford to the deserving:—“MAGNA EST VERITAS, ET PREVALEBIT.”